

THE ALMA RECORD

BARCOCK & GROSSKOPF, Publishers

Published Every Thursday Afternoon at Alma, Gratiot County, Michigan

H. S. BARCOCK, Editor ELLISON G. BARCOCK, Associate Editor

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION WHEN PAID IN ADVANCE

One copy, one year, \$1.00	One copy, three months, .50c
One copy, six months, .75c	Outside of State, one year, \$2.00

ADVERTISING RATES

For advertising rates apply for schedule. Notices of church and lodge socials and entertainments where admission is charged, regular advertising rates. Obituary notices, 125 words free, over that, one cent per word. All obituary notices, one cent per word. Classified ads, one cent per word each issue, with a minimum price of 25 cents, cash in advance. Standard accepted.

The Record is entered at the postoffice at Alma, Michigan, for transmission through the mail as second-class matter.

CHRISTMAS

It is hardly possible to say anything distinctively new or original upon the subject of Christmas. The celebration of that day is an old custom dating back from the time of the wise men, over nineteen hundred years ago, and it has been written of, and sung of, and talked of during all these many years by prophets, and poets, and minstrels, and statesmen, and common people until every phase of the subject has been covered many times and in many different ways.

But in spite of this fact, the subject never grows old and so long as generations shall be born the old, old story will be a new, new story, repeated by mothers to their little children who will ever listen with bated breath to the stories of Santa Claus, of the Babe born in the Manger, of the Shepherds, of the Wise men. It will be retold in the schools, year after year, by the teachers, to the older children who never tire of listening to it. It will be spoken from the pulpit all over the world to the men and women and it will be listened to by them with reverence and awe.

And this fact is worthy of thought. For it is seldom that any one thing so grips an entire world that after nineteen hundred years it has not been discarded or tired of; that after nineteen hundred years it is still new and fresh and interesting; and is still celebrated by old and young, rich and poor, high and low, who all bow in reverence before a tiny new born babe who was laid in a manger in a rough stable over nineteen hundred years ago.

And the thoughtful person will not be long in discovering the reason. For the spirit of that Babe grown to manhood, and his teachings given freely to a sin-sick world can never grow old. For He taught the Brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God to a world who sorely needed that teaching, to a world providentially prepared for his message, and during the few short years of his life on earth, He lived out his teaching among his fellow men and forever set the example of Peace on Earth, Good-will to Men.

And so all over the world after nineteen hundred years, we still celebrate with gladness the anniversary of the birth of the Christchild, by appropriate religious exercises, by the giving of gifts to our friends, and to the poor and needy, and to the little children. We decorate our homes and our churches with Christmas Bells and Christmas greens, with holly and mistletoe. We declare a holiday from all our labor, be it in field, or factory or office. And we gather together to renew broken family ties, to forget family quarrels or business worries and, as it were, to take a fresh grip on things which may last us until another Xmas tide. And we do all this because the Spirit of the Christ Child and of Christmas is a live thing, a beautiful thing, a helpful thing, a powerful thing which has caught the world in its grip and which will never let go so long as the world endures.

And it is well with us that this is so. For the human mind needs the relaxation and inspiration which the celebration of Christmas always should bring to it, and the human heart needs the softening and refining influences which are inseparable from the Spirit of Christmas which pervades each human heart of all who truly celebrate the anniversary of the birth of the Christ Child.

AN ERA OF GOOD FEELING

Every American who is thoughtful and anxious for a reconstructed country with stable conditions must be pleased with the progress being made at the Washington conference. Great things are looming for our country.

The "era of good feeling" from 1816 to 1824 was national. An era of good feeling from 1921 to 1929, under Harding bids fair to become international. The conference at Washington is achieving results looking toward peace far beyond the dreams of the President who initiated it and of the able and far-seeing American delegates who were appointed and have been given the widest opportunity to participate in it. It was truly predicted that the conference would enter on Pacific problems and their solution. If there is any outside of war, it is to be found in the proposed Four-Power treaty, the basis of which is understanding, while the basis of the league covenant was force.

Certainly it can be said that reflexes of the "get-together" attitude of the delegates to the Washington Conference are already displaying themselves in other portions of the globe. The Anglo-Irishman treaty which gives promise of culminating in the Irish Free State is a case in point. If the English and the Irish are able to harmonize their difficulties there will no longer be good ground for the bitter feeling exhibited toward England by Americans of Irish descent.

"Turning to economic questions it will be found that almost everywhere there is a change for the better, marked in some countries, slower in others, but generally perceptible. The Washington Conference is creating world-wide return of confidence. The nations of the earth are encouraged by the belief that the vast sums heretofore devoted to the upkeep of non-productive armament and men, are, in goodly proportion, at least, to be turned to productive account for the benefit of humanity. This is a glorious season. Not since the birth of Him whose Nativity we celebrate December 25th could the world have said with such fervor and faith as we now possess, "Peace on Earth Good Will Toward Men."

A SMILE

It's easy enough to be pleasant
When life goes on like a song.
But the man worth while
Is the man who can smile.
When everything goes dead wrong.

A neighbor has a motto hanging in the sitting room "Keep Smiling." It faces the family every day. It is worth while. Smile at the children when you meet them in the street; smile at your neighbors; smile at your enemies; smile at misfortune and sorrow when they come in at the door, even if you have to smile through your tears.

But shall we smile at everything?

No we must not smile at cruelty, at selfishness, at hypocrisy, for a smile expresses sympathy if not approval. We can smile at anything that comes from God, but many things that men do and say are and must be frowned at. Jesus Christ did not smile at the Pharisees. He denounced them.

Where Your Taxes Go

How Uncle Sam Spends Your Money in Conducting Your Business

By EDWARD G. LOWRY

Author "Washington Close-Ups," "Banks and Financial Systems," etc. Contributor Political and Economic Articles to Leading Periodicals and a Writer of Recognized Authority on the National Government's Business Methods

Copyright, Western Newspaper Union

THE BURDEN OF TAXES

Before the war the government of the United States spent about one billion dollars a year for all purposes, including interest on the public debt. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, the first full fiscal year after fighting stopped, the government spent in round figures six billion four hundred million dollars. In the fiscal year 1921, that is, up to June 30, 1921, it spent \$3,155,927,080.50, and in the fiscal year of 1922, which will end on June 30, 1922, it will spend more than four billion dollars, says Secretary Mellon of the Treasury Department.

These figures include interest on the public debt which amounts to about one billion dollars, but include nothing for sinking fund or other debt redemption. Including both interest and sinking fund, the government will spend more than four times as much, the fiscal year 1922 as it spent yearly before the war.

These expenditures and these heavy charges are a part of the price of victory. Your whole present problem is to curtail them. It concerns you to know just how these immense sums were gathered and how much you paid and are paying toward them, for of course we, the tax payers, the men and women with jobs, the men and women who have what the census calls gainful occupations, paid every cent of it. It was our money until the government took it.

Let us examine the fiscal year 1920. I have not the detailed account for 1921, but it was slightly less than the year previous, as the year ending June 30, 1922, will be a slightly less burden on us than the year preceding. According to a careful analysis made by the late Dr. E. B. Ross, of the United States bureau of standards, a government scientist who was deeply and intelligently interested in the subject, every man, woman and child in this country contributes an average of 90¢-1.00 dollars in taxes to the support of the national government. Actually it is nearer fifty-four than fifty-three dollars, but I am taking the smaller sum for the sake of the round number. That is, the average family of five persons pays \$256 a year out of its earnings to the federal government alone, in addition to what is paid for state, county and city taxes. The estimated average yearly income of a family of five is something more than \$700. But before any of that \$700 is spent \$256 must be turned over to the general government to run the business of the United States.

The actual amount that each one of us paid was \$287.77. We paid it through the medium of internal revenue taxes and customs duties on imported articles divided as follows:

	Per Capita
Income and excess profit.....	\$37.20
Clams and tobacco.....	2.77
Transportation and other utilities.....	2.72
Auto, candy, furs, jewelry, etc.....	2.52
Beverages.....	1.80
Special taxes on capital stock, etc.....	.30
Estate inheritance.....	.37
Stamps on legal papers, etc.....	.79
Admissions to amusements, etc.....	.77
Insurance and miscellaneous.....	.23
Total.....	\$59.77

The taxpayer is next of kin to the treasury. At any rate he is the first person notified when the treasury needs money, and he always has to dig down into his jeans for whatever is needed. Taxpayers, even more than charity, begins at home. The boy's best friend is his mother, but the taxpayer's only friend is himself. The only thing that can be done for him is to disclose as vividly as possible how much his government is costing and let him decide what he will do about it. It all comes down to this: The more money the government spends through defective organization or extravagance, the less you have to spend or save.

So much for the cost of the national business we support. We are all minority stockholders. The concern has no other source of revenue than our contributions. It doesn't make any money. In times like these, when almost everybody feels that he gets too little for what he sells and has to pay too much for what he buys, it seems to me the least we can do is to take an active and intelligent interest in this great common enterprise of ours and make sure that it is well organized; that it doesn't waste or spend extravagantly; that the employees are paid an adequate wage and have proper working conditions; that their morale is kept high and their enthusiasm in our interest unabated; in fine that as a business it shall be conducted as efficiently and economically and on as modern scientific principles as any large private business.

Is it?

That is a question you must answer for yourself after I have acquainted you with the actual situation and condition.

Inexpensive Palm.

A pretty, inexpensive palm can be grown from one or two seeds of a common dried date. The soil should be rich and the plant should be well watered.

With Our State Contemporaries

SHALL THE "CITIES" RULE

THE "COUNTRY" IN MICHIGAN

Detroit announces that petitions now are in readiness for circulation to initiate an amendment to the state constitution abolishing the "moiety clause" in the present provision for representation in the State Legislature. This scarcely sounds even interesting; much less, serious. But Michigan as a whole may well awaken—right now—to the fact that this movement, if successful, will put absolute legislative control over the destinies of 83 Michigan counties in the hands of eight of these counties. Each of these counties, in turn, is dominated by a large city. Therefore the ultimate result of the Detroit adventure will be to put a dominant legislative majority into urban hands; it will be to give Detroit, Grand Rapids, Flint, Saginaw, Pontiac, Lansing, Battle Creek and Jackson a legislative control over all Michigan. Though Kent is one of the "urban" counties, and though Grand Rapids is one of the "reigning" cities, The Herald distinctly and definitely opposes the Detroit plan, and it urges Michigan to awaken to a real contemplation of what is involved.

A "moiety" is a "portion." The State Constitution provides for the recognition of "moieties" when the Legislature is applying its "unit of representation" to the distribution of legislative seats. Under this rule many counties are guaranteed members of the Legislature whereas, without it, they would be attached to other counties to form a larger unit from which to choose a State Representative. The removal of the "moiety" clause would result in a straight apportionment of legislators to population. The immediate result would be complete urban control—because more than one-half of Michigan's population lives in the eight counties and cities listed above.

The total Legislature is constitutionally limited to 132 members—100 Representatives and 32 Senators. At present, Wayne county has five Senators and 14 Representatives. Under the new Detroit plan, Wayne would have 10 Senators and 31 Representatives. Under the new Detroit plan, the eight cities listed above—dominating eight counties—would have 17 Senators and 41 Representatives. This majority, in turn, would be dominated by the Detroit contingent. In a word—speaking in terms of practical politics—Detroit and Michigan would become well-nigh synonymous so far as the State Legislature goes.

The Detroit Free Press quotes Councilman Nagel, sponsor for this plan, as saying that "The hopes to unite the cities of the state in his fight in which case the rural communities will be out-voted and the amendment 'carried.' We doubt whether they can 'unite the cities,' and we are sure that if they did, it would not be for the best welfare of Michigan as a whole (including even these eight cities). He lets the cat out of the bag when he says: 'Until the people of Detroit have a more equitable representation in the Legislature, they will continue to bear the bulk of the state tax burden to the advantage of other portions of the state.' He cannot 'unite the cities' of Michigan to help save Detroit from bearing 'the bulk of the state tax burden'—because this 'bulk' belongs, rightly and justly, exactly where it is. Indeed, it is a provable proposition that in times past Detroit has borne less rather than more of its share of the 'state tax burden' as equitably distributed to relative and admitted resources.

Fundamentally, furthermore, there is a serious principle at stake. Michigan is fighting something of this battle in Illinois, but the Chicago Tribune yesterday admitted that "city life should have the conservative balance of country life." We believe," it said, "that the most stable state has the two elements in equal counterpoise." Exactly. So long as "Home Rule" leaves Detroit untrammelled in wholly municipal concerns, it is best for Michigan—and we believe best, in the long run, for Detroit itself—to have a "counterpoise" between urban and suburban authority at Lansing. Big cities are prone to an industrial restlessness which might not always produce a legislative spokesmanship which would be permanently best, on sober second thought, for the commonwealth (or for the "big cities" themselves). Big cities have their inherent problems in the solution of which they are entitled to be free from rural dictation; granted. But the converse equally is true. The countryside—absolutely fundamental in its contribution to life, livelihood and economic stability—has inherent problems in the solution of which it is entitled to be free from urban dictation. Common justice and common advantage requires what The Tribune calls "counterpoise," and what the Founders of The American System called "a system of checks and balances."

The Herald believes the proposed "Detroit Plan"—to be initiated in the form of an amendment to the State Constitution—is unsound. Even though Grand Rapids, as the second city in size in Michigan, might seem superficially to advantage by this "plan" to "unite the cities" and "out-vote the country." The Herald believes in the long run it would be a distinct disadvantage, not only to Michigan, but to Grand Rapids itself. With a "square-deal" in "counterpoise," we will gladly "take our chances" on getting our just desert from a State Legislature in which "the country" continues to have some authoritative right of consultation. Some form of change, however, is

going to be necessary. The Constitution requires a re-apportionment in 1923. It will be wise for those who disagree with the "Detroit plan" to be ready with their alternative. It is to serve this situation that The Herald proposes to apply the "federal system" hereafter to legislative apportionment. So far as the State House of Representatives is concerned, let Representatives be apportioned to straight population—with the most "moiety" clause abandoned. Let Detroit and Wayne have the House dominion which "population" dictates. This far we readily concede that Detroit and Wayne are within their rights. Paying the "bulk" of state taxes because enjoying the possession of the "bulk" of state resources, and boasting the "bulk" of population, Detroit and Wayne can absolutely justify a demand for proportionate spokesmanship in the State House of Representatives—exactly as the populous states can out-vote the smaller states in the lower House of Congress at Washington. But having thus given Detroit and Wayne their popular acknowledgment, let the State Senate be apportioned to areas instead of population—exactly as the federal Senate is apportioned to areas instead of population—so as to maintain the "counterpoise" so essentially and so traditionally a part of The American System. Then neither the "city" nor the "country" is at the mercy of the other. On the contrary, both deal justly with one another. "Justice"—even in the "taxes," which Councilman Nagel wants to "shift"—should be all that Detroit or Grand Rapids or any of the rest of us seek or require.

Detroit is a great, splendid community. It is a noble credit to Michigan. It is entitled to its fair voice in Michigan government (and, it would be our observation, usually gets it, even now). It is not entitled to be penalized through "up-state" prejudice. Neither is it entitled to ignore the fact that "population" is not everything in the make-up of the state. That mistaken notion was discarded as long ago as when the American Constitution was adopted. The whole problem is of far-reaching, fundamental importance. Detroit seems to know exactly what it wants. It would be well if the balance of Michigan took enough time off similarly to crystallize its views.—Grand Rapids Herald.

Perforation of Postage Stamps.

Forty-six perforations are made around the edge of every postage stamp. It is estimated that about 500,000,000 holes are punched every day. This means a similar number of bits of paper. They are collected, repulped and remade into sheets of paper. These are regarded so valuable by the postal authorities that barrels full of them are sold every day.

Learned Lesson From Animals.

As eminent a man as John Wesley, in his direction on the art of keeping well, wrote that "many of the medicines used among the common people of my time were first discovered by animals using them to cure their aches and pains." He said also: "It looked reasonable that if they would heal animals, they would also heal man."

Record Directory FOR READY REFERENCE

Preserve This and Then You'll Know

President and Congress
President, Warren G. Harding, Ohio, salary \$35,000, with allowance for traveling expenses up to \$25,000 extra, and \$150,000 more for clerk hire and White House expenses—\$250,000 in all. (Subject to change.)
Vice-President, Calvin Coolidge, Mass., salary \$12,000. President pro tem of senate, Albert B. Cummins, Iowa, salary \$12,000.
Speaker of House, Frederick H. Gillett, Mass., salary \$12,000. The 96 Senators and 435 Representatives of the congress receive \$2,500 salary each, with mileage extra of 20 cents a mile each way, each session, figured on distance between their homes and Washington; also \$125 extra for stationery, newspapers, etc. Each is also allowed \$2,500 a year for clerk hire. Ratio of representation, one member to each 211,500 population.
Party Division in 67th Congress: House 301 Rep., 133 Dem., 1 Sen., Senate 59 Rep., 37 Dem.
U. S. Senators—Chas. E. Townsend, Truman H. Newberry.
Representative in Congress—Joseph W. Fordner.

The Cabinet
Arranged in order of presidential succession:
Sec'y State, Charles E. Hughes, N. Y., salary \$15,000; W. Nelson, Pa., \$12,000; John W. Weeks, Mass., \$12,000; Homer M. Daugherty, Ohio; Postmaster-General, Will H. Hays, Ind.; Sec'y Navy, Edwin Denney, Mich.; Interior, Albert C. Fall, N. Mex.; Agriculture, Henry C. Wallace, Iowa; Commerce, Herbert C. Hoover, Calif.; Labor, James J. Davis, Pa. Salary of each \$12,000.
The Supreme Court
Chief Justice, William Howard Taft, salary \$25,000. Associate Justices, salary \$12,500 each: Jos. McKenna, Calif. (Rep.); Oliver W. Holmes, Mass. (Rep.); Wm. B. Day, Ohio (Rep.); Willis VanDevanter, Wyo. (Rep.); Mahlon Pitney, N. J. (Rep.); James M. Reynolds, Tenn. (Dem.); Louis D. Brandeis, Mass. (Dem.); John H. Clarke, Ohio, Dem.

Michigan Government
Governor, Alex. J. Groves, salary, \$5,000. Lieut. Gov., Thomas Reed, salary, \$2,000. Secretary of State, Charles J. Folmer, salary, \$2,500.00; State Treas., Frank E. Gorman, salary, \$2,500.00; Auditor Gen., Oranot B. Fuller, salary \$2,500.00; Attorney Gen., Martin Wiley, salary \$2,500.00; Supt. of Public Instruction, Thomas E. Johnson, salary, \$2,500.00; State Highway Com., Frank E. Rogers, salary \$750.00; Senator of District, Aaron Aron, salary \$200.00; Representative of District, David G. Locke, salary, \$800.00; Supreme Court Judges, salary \$7,000.00; Joseph B. Moore, Joseph H. Steers, Howard Weist, Grant Fellows, John W. Allen, Geo. M. Clark, John E. Bird, Nelson Sharp.
County Officers
Circuit Judge, Edward J. Moined, salary \$2500.00; Judge of Probate, James G. Kress, salary, \$2400.00; Sheriff, A. T. Willett, salary, \$2,000.00; Clerk, Bernice Case, salary, \$1,500.00; Trust, Sidney Evers, salary, \$1,500.00; Press. Atty., Romaine Clark, salary, \$2,000.00; Register of Deeds, Chas. Helsler, salary, \$1,500.00; School Com., Howard Potter, salary, \$1,000.00; Circuit Court Com., Archie McCall, Wm. A. Buhle, fees: Drain Com., Eva Laycock, salary \$1,500.00; Coroners, W. K. Ludwig, Dr. Hall, fees.

City Government
Mayor, Chas. E. Townsend, salary, \$300.00; City Commissioners, John C. Chik, Floyd Glas, A. J. Archer, Philip Cresser, salary, \$200.00; City Manager, Wm. E. Reynolds, salary \$500.00; City Clerk, C. Hayward, salary \$500.00; City Treasurer, D. W. Adams, salary, \$180.00; City Attorney, Wm. A. Buhle, salary, \$120.00; Health Officer, Dr. John N. Day, salary, \$100.00; Chief of Police, James R. Campbell, salary \$175.00; Supervisors, 1st ward, Jesse E. Fuller, 2nd ward, Nicholas E. Esau, 3rd ward, Albert P. Cook, 4th ward, Jacob D. Helman, salary, \$5.00 per day on actual time.

Telephone No. 17

Corner State and Superior

ELLISON'S GROCERY

C.O.D. and Cash Orders Solicited.

Free Delivery Service

Famo Pancake	30c	Palm Olive Soap	25c
Flour, sack		3 bars for	
Salmon, Pink	13c	4 large rolls Toilet	25c
per can		Paper for	
Peanuts, fresh	15c	Sure Pop quality	10c
roasted, per lb		Pop Corn, per lb	
Shredded Wheat	12c	Peaberry Coffee	27c
Biscuit, pkg.		per pound	
Cluster Raisins, on	35c	Teapot Tea, best for	50c
the stem, per lb		the price, per lb	
Larabee's Best Flour, quality	\$1.15	Ralston's Breakfast Food per	25c
goods, per		package, 20c	
sack		and	
Shell Macaroni	12 1/2 c	Pumpkins, Santa Clara, new goods	20c
fancy, per lb		per lb 15c	
		and	

Jones Dairy Farm Sausage and Bacon, Navel oranges, red, ripe and all sizes, Holly, per lb. 25c, Holly Wreaths each 20c, Grape Fruit, fancy ripe, special each 6c.



Candy

IN GIFT BOXES OR
ORIENTAL BASKETS
Filled to Your Choice

The finest candies made are used in filling the orders with Christmas sweets.

Whitman's

These candies are packed in various sizes of boxes and baskets of assorted flavors and fillings. We also handle all kinds of hard goods, and fancy Chocolates and Bon Bons. We are equipped with everything for making the holiday season a pleasure. Leave your orders early.

The Strand Sweet Shop

Don't Miss—The Galloping Chief
of Screen Sensations

An amazing tale of the Bronzed Arabian Chieftain who took what he wanted—This time a beautiful English girl, a character lived by charming

AGNES AYERS

See the Auction of Handsome Girls
to the Algerian Harems

Await the matchless scenes of gorgeous splendor, and wild, free life—and love.—It's the year's supreme thrill.

ALL EMOTIONS AWAIT

"THE SHEIK"

IT'S COMING TO

The STRAND

SUNDAY and MONDAY
January 1st and 2d

Admission: Children 10c; Adults 35c, including tax

It's a great, big, super-sensational paramount picture.

RUDOLPH VALENTINO
Plays "THE SHIEK"